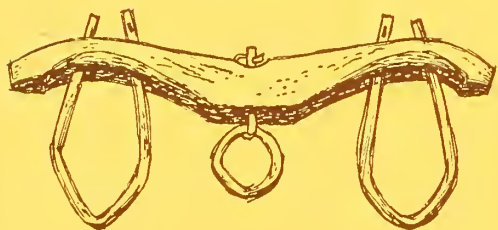


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Lincoln visits Beloit and Janesville, Wisconsin. Contemporary account of anti-slavery speeches of October 1, 1859

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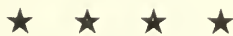
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LINCOLN VISITS BELOIT
and
JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN



Contemporary Accounts of Anti-Slavery
Speeches of October 1, 1859

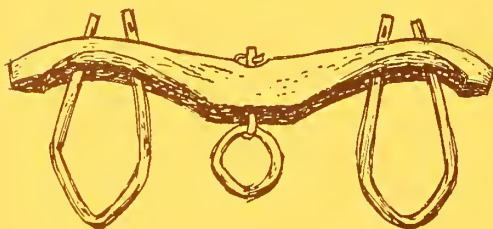


THE LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP OF WISCONSIN
Madison

1949

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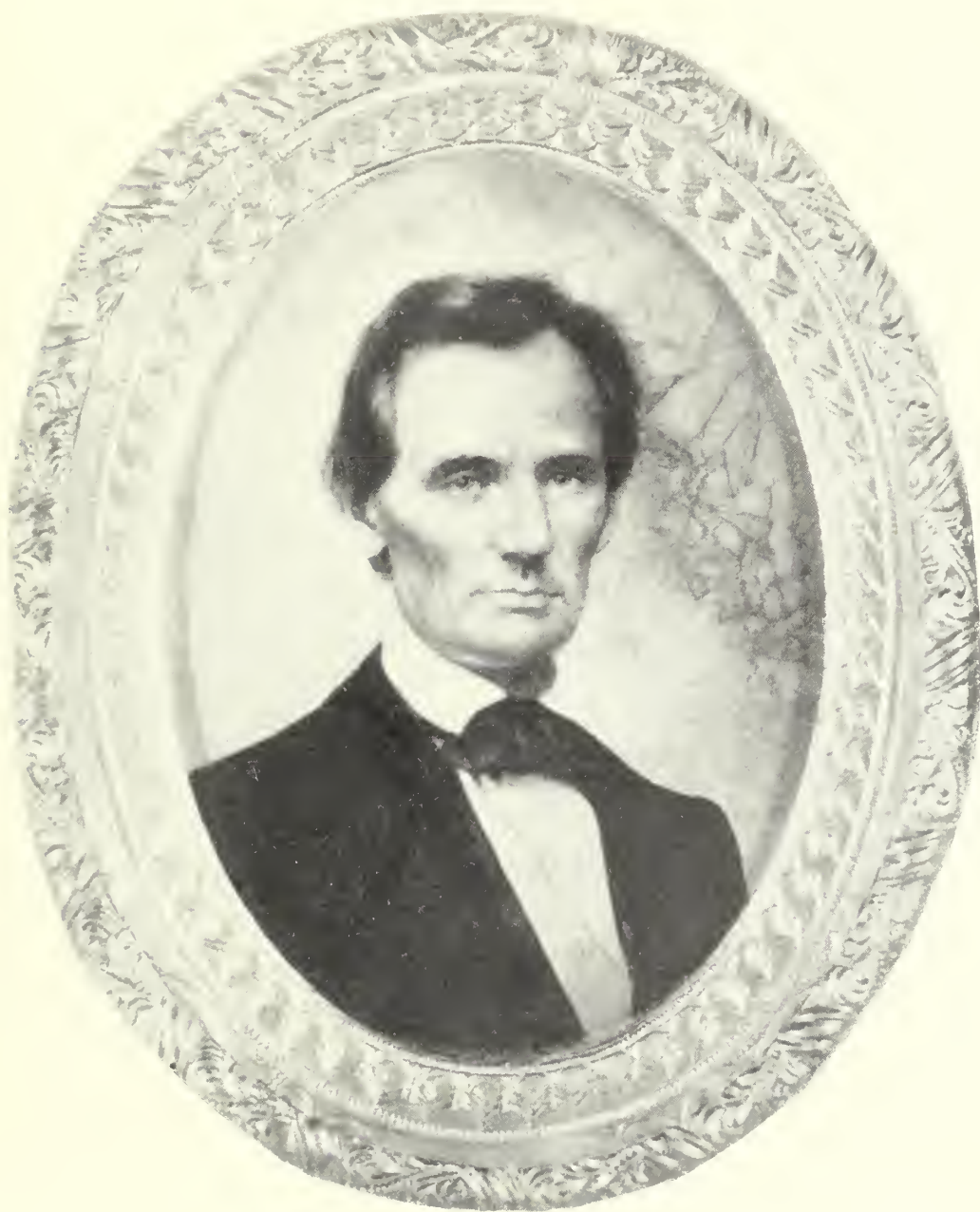
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ALBERT H. GRIFFITH - - Bibliographer

WHEN, IN February, 1948, the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin published "The Heart of Lincoln," by Albert H. Griffith, A. M., it was partly in recognition of the scholarship of this Wisconsin author in the Lincoln field.

There was then no thought that before another Lincoln anniversary rolled around his life work would be ended. He passed away on Oct. 16, 1948, after a period of ill health, at the age of 76. He lived on the farm in Winnebago County, Wisconsin, where he was born.

Mr. Griffith, graduate of Ripon College, was one of the foremost collectors of things Lincolnian. His historical collections in other fields also were noteworthy. He collaborated with some of the distinguished biographers, compiling data and reading proofs of their works on the Civil War president. He was a charter member of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin and kept in touch with its activities although prevented from meeting with his fellow members.

Thus passeth another of a notable group of Lincoln collectors — names such as Oakleaf, Lambert, Stewart, McLellan, Fish, Burton, and Horner.

FOREWORD

WITH THIS publication, the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin has now covered in its series of Historical Bulletins all visits of Abraham Lincoln to Wisconsin. The series began in 1943.

The 1944 Bulletin contained an historian's account of Lincoln's first trip into Wisconsin (then a territory) when, in 1832, Lincoln was a private in a company of volunteers in the Black Hawk war. The author was Dr. Edward P. Alexander, then director of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The soldiers entered Wisconsin at Turtle, present site of Beloit.

The previous annual issue was a reprint, with illustrations, of Lincoln's State Fair address on agriculture, delivered at Milwaukee on Sept. 30, 1859. (Lincoln also spoke at the Newhall House in the evening).

The 1945 Bulletin was devoted to all visits of Lincoln to the Badger State, but touched only briefly on the Beloit-Janesville visits. As prepared by the late George P. Hanbrecht, first president of the Lincoln Fellowship, the manuscript included the author's evidence tending to show that, sometime between 1835 and 1840, Lincoln journeyed to Sheboygan, by way of Milwaukee and the lake shore, with a view of opening there a law office. Since these findings are not verified by actual records of Lincoln's "day by day" activities, as compiled by Lincoln historians, they may be regarded still as lacking full credence.

The present issue relates to Lincoln's two anti-slavery speeches in Rock County—at Beloit on the afternoon of October 1, 1859, and Janesville in the evening (one day after the State Fair address).

No manuscript or other verbatim copy of either of the Rock County addresses is known to be extant. Had the gentleman from Illinois, then within a year of nomination for the presidency, spoken from a prepared text, it seems likely that the newspaper editors present would have obtained a copy for publication. That his words were impromptu is the view taken by Dr. Louis A. Warren, editor of *Lincoln Lore*, who concluded: "It is not likely that Lincoln used any manuscript on this occasion, and the remarks he made are available only in the words of the reporter who covered the meeting."

As it turned out, the Beloit Journal (weekly) and the Janesville Morning Gazette (daily) reported the speeches in the form of editorial reviews, with scarcely a direct quotation from the orator's lengthy remarks. In the journalistic custom of the times, each publisher exercised the editorial privilege of interpolating his own supporting views freely, with the result that the account appeared as much like an editorial as a news story concerning an important political event.

L. W. B.

ROCK COUNTY GREET'S LINCOLN AS ANTI-SLAVERY ADVOCATE

WHEN THE "Illinois orator" (as editors of the time labeled him)—Abraham Lincoln—was announced as the speaker at the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee, Sept. 30, 1859, his coming inspired a demand by ardent Republican leaders in Rock County, Wisconsin, that he tarry for a day and discuss with them the political issues at a public meeting.

Beloit, Wis., Sept. 14th 1859—

Dear Mr. Abraham Lincoln

Dear Sir—

Seeing by our papers that you have accepted an invitation to deliver the address at our State fair at Milwaukee, the last of this month—Our City Republican Club have instructed me to write and see if you would stop at our place on your return home from the fair, and address the citizens of old Rock County, on the great political issues which now absorb the public mind in the North-west.

It is their desire that you should open the Campaign here, if your engagements would permit— You can come from Milwaukee to our place by Rail Road and from here to Freeport or Beloit by R.R.

Hoping to hear from you by return mail I subscribe myself.

Very Respectfully &c
M. A. Northrop

Corresponding Sec.
Beloit City Republican Club.

Attorney M. A. Northrop's letter of invitation, and (Page 3) his acknowledgment of Lincoln's acceptance to give the Beloit address of October 1, 1859.

Beloit, Wis. September 29th 1839

Abram A. Lincoln-

Dear Sir,

Your letter under date of the 25th instant came to hand last evening - We were highly gratified to learn that you had concluded to visit our place on the first of October - We have arranged matters so as to have you speak in the afternoon at two o'clock - And shall give as an extended notice through Rock and adjoining Counties as possible - You can leave our City so as to be in Chicago early on Monday morning - Trusting that this will meet your approbation, and with the assurance of our high return - I subscribe My self

Yours Very Respectfully

M. A. Northrop

Secy. Beloit City Republican Club.

These letters are printed here for the first time, having come to light upon the opening of the Robert Todd Lincoln Collection in the Library of Congress on July 26, 1947. Lincoln's letter to Northrop never has been found, and is believed to have been destroyed.

Matthew A. Northrop, a prominent attorney of Beloit, wrote to Mr. Lincoln at Springfield and invited him to speak in Beloit during the course of his trip. Mr. Lincoln complied.

Leaving Milwaukee on Saturday morning, October 1, Lincoln traveled by train, arriving in Beloit about noon. He was greeted by a large crowd of Republicans, partisans of his side of the anti-slavery issue then exciting the voters of the North.

Singularly, the Beloit Journal of September 28 made no reference to Lincoln's scheduled speech. But the Janesville Morning Gazette of September 30 announced the Beloit engagement in this brief paragraph:

"MR. LINCOLN AT BELOIT. The Hon. Abram Lincoln will address the republicans of Beloit on Saturday afternoon, October 1st, at 2 o'clock."

Lincoln was escorted to the Bushnell House (now the Goodwin Block) for dinner. Here he was welcomed by many of Beloit's citizens at an informal

reception, and is reported to have greeted a street crowd briefly in an informal talk from an iron balcony. At 2 o'clock he appeared at Hanchett's Hall, then newly erected, for his address under the auspices of the Beloit Republican Club.

The hall, three flights up, was filled to capacity, according to newspaper accounts. The speaker was introduced by Mr. Bannister as president of the Republican Club. Cheering both loud and long saluted the visitor as he arose to speak, and frequently during his address.

(For a listener's vivid impressions of Lincoln's appearance and platform power on this occasion, the reader is referred to the account written by Stanley E. Lathrop, then a student at Beloit College, as printed in "Abraham Lincoln in Wisconsin," by George P. Hambrecht, Historical Bulletin No. 4, Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin, 1945).

* * * *

MR. LINCOLN'S ADDRESS - Beloit (Beloit Journal, October 5, 1859)

MR. LINCOLN'S arrival in town Saturday noon was greeted by the enthusiastic cheering of a large crowd of citizens who had collected at the depot to catch a first glance of the great Western Statesman. The procession and formal reception "fell through," owing to mistakes and mismanagement on the part of the committee of arrangements; but the spontaneous welcome of the people must have been fully as satisfactory to Mr. Lincoln, wearied, as he was, with the loss of rest and the exertions of the day previous in Milwaukee. The band was present, and preceded the carriage which bore the orator to the Bushnell House.

At two o'clock Hanchett's hall was packed to hear the address. The high wind and flying dust prevented Mr. Lincoln's speaking in the open air, according to previous announcement. Mr. Bannister, President of the Republican Club, introduced "our distinguished visitor," and then "Old Abe," as his fellow citizens of Illinois delight to call him, commenced the clearest and most conclusive vindication of Republican principles, as well as the most unanswerable demonstration of the fallacy and utter absurdity of the Douglas doctrines, which we ever listened to.

He opened with a statement of the different positions taken by the different political parties of the country. He named 4 existing dem. parties, or, rather, sub-divisions of the great Democratic party. These were united on one point, viz: their opposition to the Republican organization and to Republican principles. At the South, the hostility to organization proceeded, in a great measure, from ignorance and misapprehension of the principles and aims of that organization.

The Democratic party there sedulously strives, by misapprehension and falsehood, to produce the impression that the Republicans desire to meddle with their existing institutions.

Mr. Lincoln then went on to state the real position of the Republican party. Its underlying principle is hatred to the institution of Slavery; hatred to it in all its aspects, moral, social and political. This is the foundation of the Republican party — its active, life-giving principle. The expression, by words and deeds, of this hatred to Slavery, is the policy of the party; and this expression is, and should be, made in every *legitimate, Constitutional* way. With Slavery in the States they had nothing to do; but when it attempts to overlap its present limits, and fasten itself upon free territory, they would resist and force it back. This, he said, was what the Republican party was now trying to do. On this point he clashed with the popular sovereignty doctrine, and accordingly, he proceeded to pay his respects to the author of that stupendous humbug. This he did in a



BUSHNELL HOUSE (NOW THE GOODWIN BLOCK), BELOIT, WISCONSIN

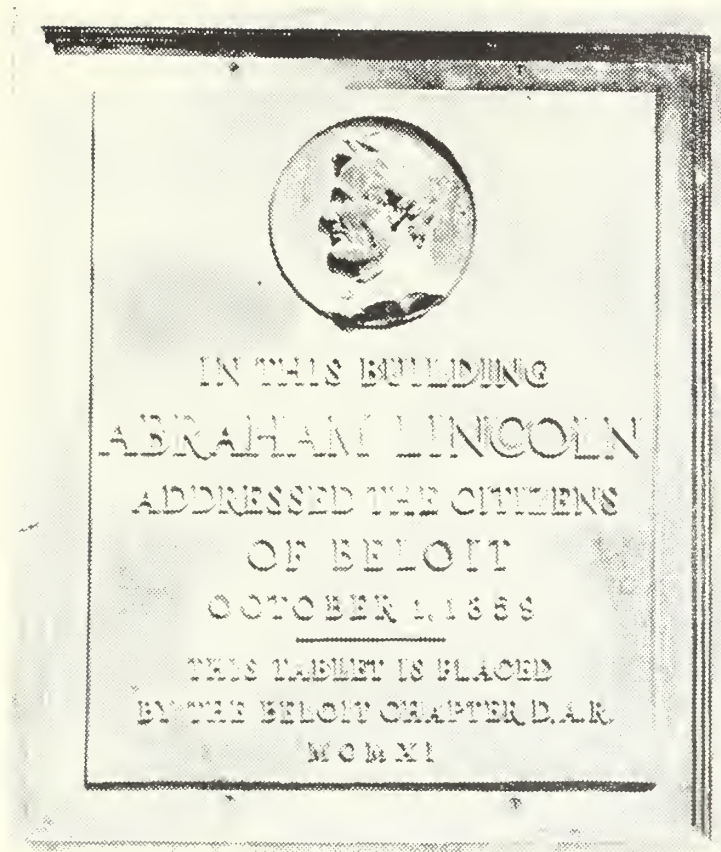
Here Lincoln was entertained at dinner upon arriving from Milwaukee on October 1, 1859. Lincoln addressed a street crowd briefly from the iron balcony (front), just before leaving for Hanchett's Hall. (From early photograph owned by Emerson Peet, present owner of the Goodwin building).

way that must have convinced every candid man in the audience of the emptiness of his arguments, and of the baneful results of the adoption of Douglas' policy by the National government. First, as to the working of the popular sovereignty principle. In no single case had it, when left free to work out its own legitimate results, brought into the Union a Free State. Every Free State which has been carved out of territory belonging to the United States, and has been received into the Union since the compact was formed between the original thirteen, had been, at some time during its territorial existence, subject to a prohibition of slavery. In the states formed out of Northwestern territory, it was prohibited by the Ordinance of '87; in the Free states formed out of the Louisiana purchase by the Missouri compromise, and in California, by the Missouri compromise, and by Mexican laws. In every territory where slavery had, in accordance with popular sovereignty, obtained a foothold, it had maintained its position after the state organization. Kansas would probably be the first instance of a free state's being formed under the auspices of popular sovereignty. In this case, freedom was secured at the expense of a civil war.



HANCHETT BLOCK, BELOIT, WISCONSIN — A PRESENT VIEW

In "Hanchett's Hall," on the third floor, Lincoln addressed a large partisan audience on the afternoon of October 1, 1859.



Bronze Tablet on Hanchett Building, Beloit, Wisconsin.

The cause of this uniform result is this: Suppose that one-fifth of the inhabitants of a territory are slaves, and it is proposed to form a State Constitution. The question of course arises of Slavery or no Slavery. Before a prohibition is decided upon, several other questions are to be settled relative to the disposition of the slaves already in the territory. One man thinks that it is unjust to deprive a man of his lawful property at all, and all differ as to the means by which the difficulty shall be removed. The result of their disagreement will be that the institution is permitted to remain undisturbed.

Slavery may thus be introduced into and retained upon territory where a large majority of the population are decidedly opposed to it. The practical difficulty in the way of removing the curse overbalances their aversion to it in principle, and in its practical effects upon the prosperity of the country. Mr. Lincoln proceeded to speak of the demoralizing tendency of a general prevalence of Douglas' doctrines in the country. Mr. Douglas takes it for granted that slavery is not a moral wrong. To him it is a matter of indifference whether it is "voted up or voted down." Of course, then, if he makes any pretence to morality, he considers that no moral question is involved. It is right and neces-

sary at the south, he says, and he sneers at the idea of an "irrepressible conflict" between negro bondage and human freedom. "They are an inferior race." "Between the white man and the negro, he goes for the white man; but between the negro and the crocodile, he goes for the negro." These are Douglas' sentiments. The man who expressed such sentiments as these can see no moral wrong in slavery. But if it is morally right below the line of 36 30, it must be above. Questions of abstract right and wrong cannot be questions of locality. But slavery is unprofitable at the north, Mr. Douglas says; but this is no reason for its prohibition. Cotton cannot be profitably grown at the north; but who ever thought of State enactments forbidding the raising of cotton for such a reason?

The natural result of a general belief in such doctrines would be the ultimate establishment of slavery in every State of the Union.

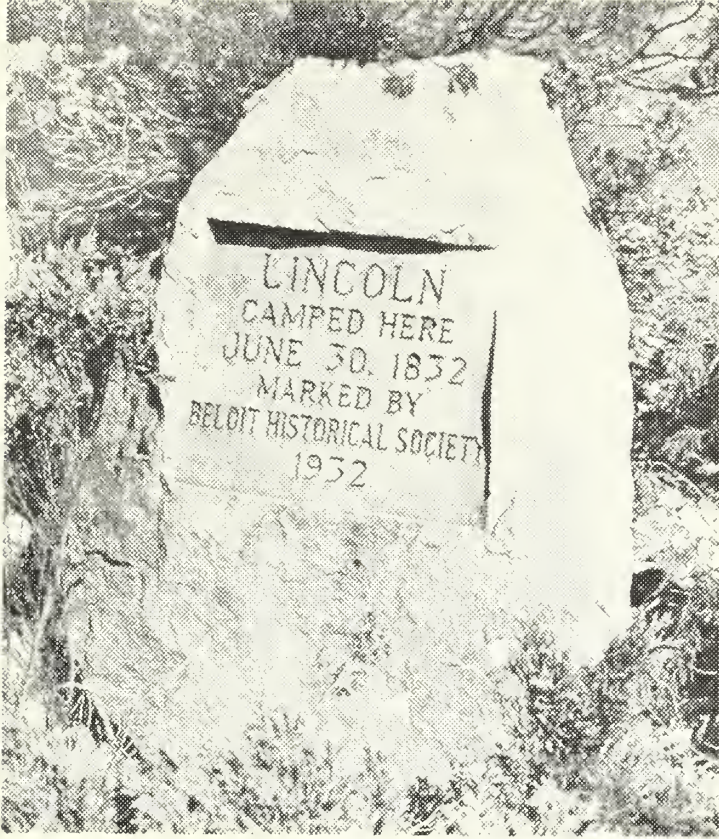
The orator then went on to prove the identity of the Republican principles with those of the Fathers of the Republic. This he did most satisfactorily, citing in proof the passage of the Ordinance of '87, and the refusal there several times of the Federal Legislature to grant the petition of a majority of the inhabitants of the territory of Indiana for liberty to hold slaves in that territory. Innumerable other cases might be cited to prove the same point. If twelve good sound democrats could be found in the county of Rock, he would put them on oath as a jury. He would bring the evidence in form of depositions in a court, and wring from them the verdict that the Republicans hold to the same principles which Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison and their compeers held.

Mr. Lincoln closed with an eloquent passage from Mr. Clay, pointing out, with prophetic voice, the ruin which the adoption by the people of such principles as Douglas advocates would bring upon the country, and denouncing, in terrible language, the authors of such a change of public policy.

The above are the main points of this admirable Address. We regret that it is impossible for us to give more than a meagre outline of it.

Mr. Lincoln makes no attempt at rhetorical display, but in his simple, unpretentious manner he brings out his arguments with great clearness and force. He was repeatedly applauded while speaking, and as he closed, the audience gave three rousing cheers for Abraham Lincoln.

He spoke in Janesville in the evening to a full house, and has now returned to his home in Illinois, as well pleased with Wisconsin, we hope, as Wisconsin is well pleased with him.



Marker of spot in Beloit, Wisconsin, where Lincoln camped as a soldier of the Illinois militia during the Blackhawk War.

JANESVILLE, WELL PLEASED, CALLS MR. LINCOLN

THE BELOIT address was heard by several prominent Republican leaders of nearby Janesville, including William H. Tallman, an ardent abolitionist; A. A. Jackson, secretary of the Janesville Republican Club; J. H. Burgess; Daniel Wilcox, publisher of the Janesville Gazette, and John B. Cassoday, later chief justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Much impressed by Lincoln's logic, they importuned him, apparently without resistance, to come with them to Janesville to speak to an evening audience.

As the Hambrecht account narrated, the trip was made in the Tallman carriage, and traversed country through which Lincoln, as an Illinois militiaman, traveled in the spring of 1832 in pursuit of Black Hawk's warriors. His carriage companions have left for the record the statement that along the way Lincoln identified a number of scenes out of recollections of his experience with the troops more than a quarter century before.

The Janesville speech was delivered in the Young America Hall, in the old Myers Building. The audience was hastily organized, evidently by word-of-mouth advertising and a posted notice.

The speech was reviewed by the Gazette editor in the following account:

* * * *

SPEECH OF HON. A. LINCOLN (Janesville Morning Gazette, October 4, 1859)

ON SATURDAY it was ascertained by some of our citizens that Hon. A. Lincoln, the Illinois orator, would address the people of Beloit on Saturday afternoon, and Mr. Tallman, of this city, volunteered to proceed to that place with his carriage, and endeavor to induce him to address the people of Janesville in the evening. In consequence of its being uncertain whether Mr. Lincoln would comply, a notice was posted that he had been invited and probably would attend. The meeting was therefore not as large as it would have been if his presence had been a certainty and more general notice had been given.

When Mr. Lincoln made his appearance he was greeted with cheers, and was introduced to the people by Dr. Treat, the president of the Republican club. Many present saw Mr. Lincoln for the first time; and as his person is tall and wiry, his complexion dark, his physiognomy homely, and his phrenological developments being peculiar, he attracted much attention. His style of oratory is plain and unpretending and his gesticulations sometimes awkward. He has studied in no school of declamation, and it is apparent at once that we have homespun, backwoods Abe Lincoln, just as nature made him, without any attempts at oratorical flourish or preparation. This at first is a disappointment, as we all have our ideal of famous men, and if they are not at first grand and impressive, according to our preconceived notions, we are apt to consider them overestimated.

While Mr. Lincoln was laying down his propositions and preparing the way for his speech, most people no doubt thought that Abe Lincoln was not much ahead of common orators, after all; but when he came to make his points tell, and to drive home his logical conclusions, the evidence of his profound thought was apparent, while his powers of satire and wit flashed out brilliantly, and rather startling the audience by their unexpectedness. Whatever unfavorable opinion any person in the audience may at first have formed of Mr. Lincoln's ability as an orator soon vanishes, and the power of the high order of intellect which he undoubtedly possesses, makes itself felt, not only while the speech is being delivered, but afterwards. His speeches are not easily forgotten, and we doubt not that all his audience who heard him through, still remember his



TALLMAN MANSION – JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

Here Lincoln stayed two nights (October 1 and 2, 1859), following an evening speech on the slavery question at a midtown hall. Lincoln's was the right corner room on the second floor on the side of the house.

points and his hits, and will do so for many a day; and that they still have a vivid recollection of that tall, gaunt form, stooping over towards his hearers, his countenance full of humor or frowning with scorn, as he lays bare to the gaze of the audience the ridiculous positions of Douglas or withers with his pungent sarcasm the false positions of the believers in popular sovereignty.

No one can forget Mr. Lincoln, his manner or his logic. You are *compelled* to revolve his ideas over and over in your mind (whether you will or not). Hence we found, yesterday, the Douglas men very much disturbed – Lincoln had hit their popular sovereignty craft between wind and water, and it was about going down with the whole crew on board. They thought there hadn't been much of a storm. "Pooh," said they, "he is no orator – he has not hurt us any – we'll show you a man when Douglas comes." Instinctively they feel that they *need* the help of their leader, and they cry out for him to come – "Help me, Cassius, or I sink."

Mr. Lincoln's address was principally in relation to slavery. Of the several points made we select only one, and this we cannot give in the author's own words, as we took no notes.

He enquired why slavery existed on one side of the Ohio river and not on the other. Why did we find that institution in Kentucky, and not in Ohio? There was very little difference in the soil or the climate, and the people on one side of the line loved liberty as well as on the other. The northern portion of Kentucky was opposite free territory, while the southern portions of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois had for neighbors states in which slavery existed. Indiana while a territory had petitioned congress three times to allow them to introduce slavery; while slavery actually existed in Illinois when she was admitted as a free state. It was apparent that some of the people wanted slavery. Mr. Lincoln said that there could be no other reason than that it was prohibited by congress. If it has been left to the people, as proposed by Mr. Douglas, a few slaves would have found a place there — if ten thousand had been admitted into Ohio while she was a territory, many questions would have been presented that would have been embarrassing, which would not have perplexed the people if slavery had been prohibited by congress — the question would have come up, what shall we do with these ten thousand slaves? Shall we make them free and destroy property which people supposed they possessed? If they abolished slavery what would they do with negroes? These questions would be troublesome and difficult to decide. The power of this amount of property in the hands of wealthy and educated men, who would most likely own the slaves, would in the end prevail and slavery would be established; whereas if congress had prohibited it until the state constitution was about to be formed, slavery and freedom would start upon an equal platform, and without the embarrassing question named — freedom in this case would prevail and slavery would be prohibited. Slavery comes gradually into territory where it is not prohibited without notice, and without alarming the people, until, having obtained a foothold, it cannot be driven out.

Thus we see that in all the new states where slavery was not prohibited, it was established. In Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri, the principle of popular sovereignty prevailed — congress permitted the people to establish the institution of slavery if they pleased. In all these instances, where they had their choice, slavery had been introduced; but, on the contrary, in all the new states, where slavery had been prohibited, and where popular sovereignty had no choice until state constitutions were formed, the states have prohibited slavery in their constitutions; such was the case in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, California and Minnesota. In California it had been prohibited by the old Mexican law, which was not abrogated before California became a state. Minnesota was a territory five years after the Missouri compromise was repealed, but commenced its settlement with a congressional restriction against slavery.

It is therefore evident, if the principle of popular sovereignty becomes the settled policy of the country, that slavery will have a great advantage over freedom, and the history of the country proves this to be true.

Mr. Lincoln said that he had failed to find a man who five years ago had expressed it his belief that the declaration of independence did not embrace the colored man. But the public mind had become debauched by the popular sovereignty dogma of Judge Douglas. The first step down the hill is the denial of the negro's rights as a human being. The rest comes easy. Classing the colored race with brutes frees from all embarrassment the idea that slavery is right if it only has the endorsement of the popular will. Douglas has said that in a conflict between the white and the negro, he is for the white man; but in a conflict between the negro and the crocodile he is for the negro! Or the matter might be put in this shape: As the white man is to the negro, so is the negro to the crocodile! (Applause and laughter). But the idea that there was a conflict between the two races, or that the freedom of the white man was insecure unless the negro was reduced to a state of abject slavery, was false and that as long as his tongue could utter a word he would combat that infamous idea. There was room for all races, and as there was no conflict so there was no necessity of getting up an excitement in relation to it.

We have thrown out only a few of the ideas broached by Mr. Lincoln, and these are not in his own words. We have entirely omitted all mention of the opening part of his speech which related to the position of the two parties on the slavery question. He spoke about an hour and a half.

* * * * *

EDITORIAL AFTERMATH

THE JANESVILLE MORNING GAZETTE was under the vigorous editorship of "Charlie" Holt, an ardent champion of the Republican, anti-slavery cause. On October 7, 1859, he published the following editorial:

OF COURSE! — The democrats in Beloit, like those in Janesville, are not pleased with Mr. Lincoln's speech. Like produces like, everywhere. Mr. Lincoln sent too many pointed shafts, and planted them too deeply, to be at all agreeable to his democratic hearers. Here they were generally unwilling to hear him, and left before the conclusion of his speech, swearing it did not amount to anything. But their actions belie their words. They spend too much time in declaring the speech a lame one, if it really were a lame one. The fact is, Mr. Lincoln gave them a stronger dose than they could bear. With a master's hand he exposed the deformities of squatter sovereignty, and pinned to the wall the father of that cheat and delusion. The lance which he drove into Douglas was barbed, and after it had entered into his victim it was

turned and twisted in the body of the impaled sufferer. The "little giant" finds a hard customer in the long backwoodsman; hard, because he deals out justice to him, and in doing so never descends to the black-guard or falsifier.

After his address Lincoln was a guest at the Tallman home — a pretentious mansion of 20 rooms (still standing). The next day he accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Tallman to their house of worship, the First Congregational Church, for the morning service, at which the sermon was delivered by the Rev. M. P. Kirney. He remained over Sunday as a guest of the Tallmans, and departed on Monday for Springfield by way of Chicago.

* * * * *

NEWS AND COMMENT

Two meetings of the officers of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin were held during 1948 — on March 31 and November 18 — at Madison. At the March meeting the officers, who have constituted the Executive Committee, voted to adopt a five-point service program designed to expand these activities throughout the state. These objectives are:

1. To furnish speakers, exhibits and other special programs pertaining to Lincoln to schools, churches, service clubs and other organizations;
2. To conduct Lincoln rallies in the 40 cities where there are representative members and to aid in enlarging the local groups in these communities;
3. To make known the Fellowship's purposes and objectives in new centers throughout the state;
4. To take the Lincoln message to the youth of the state through the high schools;
5. To encourage youth along the line of research in Lincolniana.

* * * * *

The Abraham Lincoln Quarterly, published by the Abraham Lincoln Association at Springfield, Illinois, states in its December 1948 issue: "The expansion of the activities of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin through its five-point service program merits the attention of other Lincoln groups throughout the country."

* * * * *

At its November meeting the Executive Committee approved the draft of a proposed constitution and by-laws for the Fellowship, to be embodied in an official application for incorporation under the laws of the state as a non-stock, non-profit corporation. The proposal was planned to be presented to the annual meeting on February 11, 1949, with the committee's recommendation for adoption. The motion to this effect was made by Dr. Clifford L. Lord, vice-president, and seconded by A. C. Larson, former president. Judge P. L. Lincoln,

vice-president, and Attorney W. H. Spohn were appointed to prepare the incorporation papers.

* * * *

The Rotary Club of Havana, Illinois, September 3, 1948, dedicated a memorial monument to Abraham Lincoln commemorating the landing of Lincoln in Havana when he returned as a young man from the Black Hawk war.

* * * *

February 1, 1949, was designated by President Truman as National Freedom Day, commemorating the signing by Abraham Lincoln of a joint resolution, passed by Congress, proposing the Thirteenth Amendment.

* * * *

A new Lincoln statue, provided by State appropriation and sculptured by Fred M. Torrey, was unveiled on the campus of James Millikin University at Decatur, Illinois, on October 24, 1948. The statue depicts Lincoln at the age of 21 when he entered Macon County. The principal speaker at the ceremonies was Dr. George D. Stoddard, president of the University of Illinois.

* * * *

The Lincoln Herald, published by Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tenn., devoted considerable space in its June 1948 issue to an excellent report on the 1948 annual meeting of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin. Mention was made of Dr. Lester O. Schriver's admirable address, 'A Sublime Parallel,' delivered before the Fellowship in 1948, the extensive exhibit of Lincolniana by Gilbert G. Reinmund of Milwaukee and Rev. O. B. Ransopher of Wisconsin Rapids, the late Albert H. Griffith's Lincoln article in the Fellowship's 1948 Historical Bulletin, the Ransopher collection of Lincolniana, and the election of officers.

* * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert G. Reinmund and son Don of Milwaukee, Mr. and Mrs. Roland A. Kelling and Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Kelling of Wauwatosa made trips into the Lincoln country during the past summer. The Reinmunds visited Lincoln's birthplace and the Knob Creek home, Elizabethtown, Ky., the grave of Nancy Hanks in Spencer County, Indiana, Lincoln's home and tomb at Springfield, New Salem, and Rockford, Ill. The Kellings spent most of an afternoon with Herbert Wells Fay, custodian of the tomb, at his home, and visited New Salem, Petersburg, and other points of Lincoln interest. Gilbert Reinmund, Edward C. and Roland Kelling are Fellowship members and Lincoln collectors.

* * * *

A delegation of business and professional men of La Crosse, Wisconsin, headed by William F. Funk, a member of the Fellowship, spent an afternoon in August viewing the Ransopher collection at Wisconsin Rapids.

Mrs. Jessie Lincoln Randolph, daughter of Robert Todd Lincoln, died in a hospital at Bennington, Vermont, on January 4, 1948. She was born in 1875 and was the last surviving grandchild of Abraham Lincoln. Robert Lincoln Beckwith, the greatgrandson of President Lincoln, is the only surviving member of the Lincoln family. He was present at the opening of the Robert Todd Lincoln Papers at Washington, D. C., on July 26, 1947.

* * * *

In the list of new members recently added to the Fellowship's roster are a number of students who are young collectors of Lincolniana. They include the Landry brothers — Harry J. Landry, a business man of Wisconsin Dells and Lincoln speaker, and Dr. H. P. Landry, of Cadott, who has been lecturing on the life and work of Lincoln for the last fifteen years.

* * * *

The Lincoln programs which have been given in high schools under the auspices of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin have been enthusiastically received by the students, and have met with the highest approbation of principals and teachers.

* * * *

Members of the Lincoln Fellowship who reside in the Wisconsin Rapids area held a Lincoln gettogether with program at the home of Rev. and Mrs. O. B. Ransopher on December 7, 1948. In the large exhibit of Lincolniana displayed, three items were of special interest. One was an old lithograph of a crayon portrait of President Lincoln by the famous American artist, Joseph Rodefer De Camp. This was discovered only recently amid the plunder in the basement of an old deserted church in northeastern Wisconsin. Another item was a miniature reproduction of Lincoln's birthplace near Hodgenville, Ky., built by members of the Fellowship for this event. It included the cabin, the historic oak tree, the famous rock spring, and the rail fence around the premises. The third item was an autograph album of schoolbook size exhibited by Mrs. Rolland Murgatroyd of Wisconsin Rapids. The album had belonged to her grandfather, George P. Spooner, a Union soldier stationed in the office of the Commissary department of the government during the Civil War. It contains autographs of President Lincoln, members of his cabinet, the staffs of generals, and Stephen A. Douglas, and signatures of scores of other noted persons of the period. Talks on "Lincoln in Wisconsin" were given by Floyd Taylor, Jr., Milo Strozensky, Gehr Jorgensen, Mrs. S. G. Corey, and Prof. A. W. Zellmer, of the Wood County Normal School. In a Lincoln quiz, prizes were won by Mrs. Victor Jorgensen, a teacher at Milladore, Wis., and Mrs. Hazel M. Gemberling, a teacher at Wisconsin Rapids. Two of the historical items mentioned will be on exhibit at the annual meeting in Madison, February 11, 1949.

O. B. R.

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(Organized February 24, 1940)

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